



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2003

PLAINVILLE, KANSAS, MAN PLEADS GUILTY ON GUN CHARGES

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **David Hamilton**, 33, Plainville, Kansas, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Wesley E. Brown on October 28, 2003, to one count of possessing a shotgun in relation to a drug trafficking crime and one count of being a felon in possession of a pistol.

Melgren said that Hamilton admitted at his plea that on May 20, 2003, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at his residence on South Meridian in Plainville, Kansas, and found a number of small baggies containing approximately 12.47 grams (approximately .43 ounce) of methamphetamine that Hamilton intended to sell. Officers also found numerous items used to manufacture methamphetamine including glassware, rubber tubing, latex gloves, glass tubing, baggies, scales, and chemicals. The officers found five firearms which Hamilton admitted he used as protection in relation to his distribution of methamphetamine. Hamilton further admitted that he was convicted of a felony on February 24, 2003, in Trego County, Kansas.

Hamilton faces a minimum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, for possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and a maximum of ten years for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Sentencing is set for January 19, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Plainville Police Department, the North Central Kansas Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Treaster in this prosecution.